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I. F. Stone's Weekly

VOL. X, NO. 29 JULY 23, 1962 WASHINGTON, D. C. 15 CENTS

Superstrong—But Too Weak to Stop Testing

As the Geneva disarmament conference reopened and the Moscow Peace Congress closed, this is how the situation seemed to stack up. When the U.S. talks of its military power, it claims intelligence so precise that it can pinpoint and blast out Russia's hidden missile bases. But when it comes to the question of a treaty banning further nuclear tests, the U.S. claims its intelligence apparatus is so poor, it couldn't be sure the Russians weren't cheating unless it had listening posts on Soviet territory and the right of on-site inspection.

On the other hand, the Russians, when talking of their military power, claim to have the world's most advanced weapons. As Mr. Khrushchev told the Peace Congress, engagingly, "let's be frank about it—we have the most perfect of weapons that no other power possesses." But when it comes to a cessation of nuclear testing, Mr. Khrushchev claims—as he told the editors—that the Soviets can "come abreast of the United States . . . only if it carries out its own tests, after the current series of American tests."

A Dandy Little Armament Salesman

If Mr. Khrushchev is right, it is the U.S. which needs more testing to catch up. He told the editors, "I am not boasting but we actually have a global rocket which cannot be destroyed by any rocket weapon." He claims to have an anti-missile and he told the Peace Congress, "The ruling groups of the United States, who do not have the same powerful military weapons, have no reason at all to say that the balance of strength has changed in their favor." These modest declarations, neatly printed and sent around in this country, would make a most effective sales brochure for higher U.S. armament appropriations.

On the other hand, if Mr. McNamara is right in his campaign for a counter-force strategy, then world stability is endangered not by Russian secrecy but by lack of it. If we know as much as we claim to know of what's going on behind the suddenly sievelike Iron Curtain, then it would be to everybody's advantage if Russia were subjected to less inspection not to more. The temptation of an American first strike would be removed if we knew less about where Russia's missile bases were.

These contradictory pronouncements by the two big powers do not provide the most entrancing overture for the reopening of the Geneva talks. Neither do the two main lines of argument being put forward in this country for an intensified arms race. One is that by stepping up the race, we will force the Russians to say "uncle" and agree to our terms. The other is that by stepping up the arms race, we can continue in a position to smash the Russian missile bases but prevent them from retaliating against our cities. We reported, quite wrongly it seems last week, that Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McNamara were backing away from this counter-force strategy. On the contrary the latter has been calling in reporters for briefings aimed to sell the idea and answer criticism.

Triumph of Socialism in Military Science

Thermonuclear war seems to be getting safer all the time. We had barely finished digesting the reassuring implications of counter-force strategy, when this came over the UPI ticker:

Moscow, July 17—Premier Nikita Khrushchev is now claiming that Russia has an anti-missile so accurate that it 'hits a fly in outer space.'

Only yesterday McNamara announced proudly that we wouldn't hit cities. Now it seems the Russians can already go us one better and announce that they'll only hit flies.

The answers are not reassuring. Mr. McNamara told Marquis Childs (*Washington Post,* July 13) that he was "surprised" that anyone could read a first strike implication in his Ann Arbor speech. He regards counter-force as a defensive strategy and believes nobody could win a nuclear war. But "he knows" also, as Mr. Childs reported, "that there are those in the Pentagon—some in high position—who disagree and feel that a nuclear war could be won." This is not calculated to convince the Russians this is a good time to reduce their armament.

The Pipe-Dream of A Pax Americana

It is difficult to believe that Mr. McNamara can be as intelligent as he has shown himself to be and still as naive as he would like us to think he is. Another of the reporters briefed by Mr. McNamara provided a clue to the real strategy. He is Richard Fryklund of the *Washington Star* who was used by the Air Force to launch this spare-the-cities nonsense a year ago. In Mr. Fryklund's article, as published by his paper July 16, he showed the Russians how easily they could avoid the fear we might use our overwhelming counter-force for a first strike. "The Kremlin," Mr. Fryklund wrote, "could insure the safety of the Soviet block simply by refraining from provoking the United States." This is, indeed, how the Air Force and its military intellectuals see counter-force, as a means of frightening an adversary. All Mr. Krushchev has to do to be safe is to accept a Pax Americana, Henry Luce's American Century. Until we awaken from this pipe-dream, disarmament conferences will remain gamesmanship.

There are several things wrong with this policy of perpetual arms race in the hope of some day achieving surrender to U.S.

(Continued on Page Four)

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Famous Physicist in Address Press Ignored Says Iodine-131 Getting Dangerously High

Dr. Ralph Lapp Recommends Closing of Nevada Nuclear Testing Grounds

By Dr. Ralph E. Lapp *

With the resumption of atmospheric testing at the AEC's Nevada Proving Grounds, it is timely to consider the fallout hazards from continental nuclear bursts. The problem of fallout from Nevada tests focuses upon local and tropospheric deposition of radioactive debris in which short-lived radioactivities are of principal concern. Of these iodine-131 has received relatively little attention especially as it relates to contamination of the milk supply.

So much attention has focused on strontium-90 and cesium-137, the longer-lived components of fallout, that research on iodine-131 has been slighted. We know how much iodine-131 is formed in the bomb (a nuclear explosion of 1 kiloton yield produces 100,000 curies of iodine-131), but little is known about the fractionation of this nuclide in local and tropospheric fallout.

Maximum Risk to Infants

In assessing the iodine-131 hazard, it is clear that the maximum risk involves the infant thyroid. The radiation dosage of the developing thyroid in the late foetal period would seem to be significant especially because of the criticality of this gland, its high radioactivity and its high specific content.

The British have set up 130 uuc/liter as the acceptable limit for continuous contamination of milk by iodine-131. This corresponds to about 1 rad dose to the thyroid over a period of one year. Milk containing 1,000 uuc/liter would produce an irradiation of about 7 rad to the thyroid if the rate of consumption is one liter per day.**

Farmers and milk processors must be worried about the prospect that their product may be subject to interdiction in the event of severe iodine-131 contamination. This has not occurred as yet in the U.S. partly because the radioiodine fallout measured in the past year has originated in remote tests, namely in the Pacific or in the Soviet Union. However, with the resumption of tests in Nevada, it is necessary to take a closer look at radioiodine.

There have been a number of tropospheric fallouts from Nevada tests in the past which may serve to give an index of the radio-iodine hazard. An an example, I cite the fallout from Shot 7, Test SIMON of the UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE series, which took place on April 25, 1953. On April 26, 18 hours after the shot, an unusually severe thunderstorm took place over the Troy-Albany-Schenectady area some 2,300 miles east of the Nevada test site, one of the worst flash storms in years. Dr. Herbert M. Clark of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy discovered a marked increase in radioactivity on the campus grounds and proceeded to make measurements.

I estimate that from 2 to 4 curies of iodine-131 per square mile were deposited in the Troy area. This means that milk collected from cows feeding exclusively on fresh pasture contaminated to this level would produce milk exhibiting an early contamination of the order of 100,000 uuc/liter. A single pint of this milk would equal twice the British *annual* allowance for iodine-131 intake.

No measurements were made of the Troy fallout in milk, at least none have ever been published. . . . To the best of my knowledge the AEC report dealing with the Troy fallout is still classified SECRET. Unless the fallout was extremely localized, which seems unlikely, since one square mile of contamination involved only one-millionth of the total iodine-131 produced by the SIMON shot, about 10,000 infants in the Troy-Albany-Schenectady area would have been involved.

The Troy fallout is worth reconstructing in view of the underground or so-called "contained" shots in Nevada. It is possible to have underground shots which appear to be contained but still vent radio-iodine.*** With respect to the 100-kiloton Plowshare explosion of July 6, 1962, it was claimed that the shot released only 5 percent of its radioactivity. However, a much higher release of iodine-131 may have taken place and if this, along with iodine-131 from more recent atmospheric tests in Navada, falls out tropospherically in the United States high milk levels may result.

The levels are already sufficiently high so that recently when our seven-month old baby was given a check-up and we were told we could switch to fresh milk I insisted on using aged, canned milk.

1. I believe that the radioiodine hazard is serious enough to justify closing the Nevada Proving Grounds to all atmospheric tests and curtailing the underground test program so as to eliminate iodine-venting.

2. I would recommend that the Public Health Service intensify its iodine-131 monitoring of the milk supply.

3. I would urge that the Federal government accelerate research in the investigation of tropospheric fallout and biological uptake of iodine-131. In addition, the Federal Radiation Council should make a determination of the action to be taken when excessive levels of iodine-131 are found in milk.

4. I would also recommend that special biomedical surveys be made of "hot spots" like Troy, N.Y.; Salt Lake City and other areas where heavy fallouts have occurred in the past. In such areas it is highly probable that individuals have sustained the highest radiation dosage so far accruing in fallout as concentrated in any active body organ.

Four U.S. "Hot Spots" In June

The latest monthly report of the Public Health Service for June (released July 13) showed average concentrations of iodine-131 in milk were disturbingly high in four urban areas. The average number of micro-microcuries per liter for June was 350 in Spokane, Wash.; 240 in Kansas City, Mo.; 160 in Oklahoma City and 130 in Wichita, Kansas. The British set 130 per liter as the acceptable limit.

***Abridged from an address at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, July 10, which was almost entirely ignored by the press. Dr. Lapp is the author of many well-known books on fallout and nuclear weapons; his latest "Kill and Overkill" (Basic Books) will appear in October.**

**** The U.S. Federal Radiation Council protective guides set the Range III danger zone as 100 to 1,000 uuc per day.**

***** Dr. Lapp explained to the Weekly that this is because iodine-131 can escape in gaseous form through small fissures. Readers will recall that in our issue of June 18 we published testimony by Dr. E. A. Martell of the Cambridge Air Force Research Center before the Joint Atomic Energy Committee in which he suspected that leakage from our long series of underground tests in Nevada since last Fall was responsible for the sharp increase in iodine-131 levels.**

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A Tribute in Farewell to Royal W. France: He Fought for Those Few Dared Defend

Time For The Peace Movement to Call For An End of War in Viet Nam

PROPOSAL FOR THE PEACE MOVEMENT: Why not appoint an independent commission to investigate the war in Viet Nam and pave the way for negotiation as in Laos and for withdrawal of U.S. troops? It is time the full truth about the war and the nature of the revolt against the Fascist regime in Diem were told. There are plenty of returned Americans, military and civilian, to testify before such a commission. It is ludicrous to have a growing peace movement which does not fight for peace in the one area where warfare is going on.

How much of South Viet Nam does the Diem regime really govern? Note that the recent ambush of a 19-vehicle convoy in which Capt. Don J. York was killed occurred only 40 miles outside of Saigon, and that this was the third convoy knocked off by the guerrillas in the same area in the last few months though two of the convoys included armored vehicles.

They Pay Taxes to the Viet Cong

The AP dispatch from Saigon about this carried two fascinating final paragraphs which I saw only in the *Baltimore Sun* (July 16). The attack, the AP said, occurred on "bloody Route 13," parallel to a railroad spur over which service ended last year for lack of security. "However," the AP dispatch revealed, "rubber plantations in the region, mostly owned by French interests, continue to operate and ship their produce to Saigon. The planters generally have made agreements with the Viet Cong under which they pay taxes to Communists and refrain from open cooperation with the government."

Patriotic Note: California growers are threatening to sue Secretary of Labor Goldberg because he set $1 an hour minimum wages for "braceros" which "mean a minimum for domestic," i.e. American workers, too. . . . Hopeful Note: Snator Kefauver has been winning some battles in committee on the drug bill and hopes by a floor fight to gain further improvements. . . . "Space" Blackout: Few papers published anything on Kefauver's press conference pointing out that A.T.&T. was "not risking one dime" on Telestar: 52% of the cost is deductible as research and the remainder, so FCC told the Senator will go into A.T.&T.'s rate base. . . .

Our Ersatz Guerrilla Warriors

"Associated Press correspondents have gone on missions with Viet Namese forces, having probed into the conflicts and frustrations of the Viet Namese war. Their dispatches reflect a picture like this: U.S. officers are finding they know less about jungle fighting, often, than the men they are supposed to teach guerrilla tactics. Few Americans can go into the jungle and live off the land for long periods. . . . Guerrillas fire on helicopters with captured U.S. weapons. . . .

"Malcolm W. Browne is the chief AP correspondent in Viet Nam. He cabled these views Friday after watching the situation develop for several months: 'I get the feeling some special forces types could do with some basic training themselves. They often are saved from disaster by Viet Namese troops with them'."

—From a round up story sent out by the AP (Wash. Star, July 14), a folo up on its interview the previous week-end with disgusted officers at Leavenworth, Kans., just back from Viet Nam, to which we called attention in our last week's issue.

Freer Trade? Of the stories which emerged from a briefing by Secretary McNamara on a stiffer Buy American policy to help stem the gold outflow, only the *Washington Post's* astute Bernard D. Nossiter pointed out that this conflicted with the Administration's crusade for freer trade. Under the new rules domestic bidders on military contracts may be allowed a 50% margin over foreign bidders instead of the present 25%. That's an expensive way to "save dollars". . . . That Cartoon in last week's issue was by the brilliant Indian cartoonist Abu, from the London Sunday Observer of July 8. . . .

Royal Wilbur France: With respect and affection, for his gentle character and quiet devotion, we record with sorrow the death of Wilbur Royal France at 79. A corporation lawyer who turned civil liberties crusader, he defended the Socialists when they were expelled from the New York legislature in the Red Hunt of the early 20's and the Communists in the similar cold war prosecutions of recent years. He leaves as inheritance to younger men the inspiration of a fight for justice richly enjoyed and a life nobly lived.

How the Armed Service Mold the Public Mind Through Movies and TV

We are indebted to Richard F. Roper, the Hollywood correspondent of the Wall St. Journal, for a full report in the July 12 issue of that paper on how much influence the military wield in the making of movies and TV. Special staffs are maintained by the three armed services in the movie capital to work with producers of both. Last year Hollywood turned out 19 feature military pictures and there will be four new service series on TV next fall.

"By offering producers free technical advice, manpower and equipment at little or no cost," Mr. Roper wrote, "the services find they can get favors in return. These favors include presentation of military men in a good light, backing of a particular branch in inter-service rivalries, and sometimes the ability to edit out offensive material."

Air Force influence led Disney Productions to revise the script of its forthcoming "Moon Pilot," deleting Army, Navy and NASA which has primary charge of manned space exploration. In the picture all the space men will be shown in Air Force uniform. The Navy put a cruiser at the disposal of MGM for "Honeymoon Machine" after the script was revised to make the admiral in it less pompous. The Army staged a full review of 18,000 troops for another picture it favored. Said an Army information officer, "We don't cooperate unless we can see that a movie or TV show will do us some good." One script is being rewritten because the Pentagon objected that it showed Air Force men as "undisciplined and glory-seeking."

The Pentagon also exercises its blue-pencil on movies that portray too harshly former U.S. enemies who are now allies. "Defense Department script reviewers," Mr. Roper reported, prevailed on Universal Pictures to tone down the portrayal of a World War II Japanese colonel. "Originally he was shown whipping a priest but this was revised 'to avoid making the Japanese officer look like a bloodthirsty guy,' says an officer who worked with Universal on the movie."

Add to this the influence that the Pentagon exerts through its information officers in the press, magazine and book worlds, including—not even but especially—the comic strips, and you get some idea of the brainwashing potential at the Pentagon's command.

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The Common Interest and the Common Danger of America and Russia

(Continued from Page One)

domination. It breeds an unconscious arrogance much like that of the Kaiser's Germany which may lead us into disastrous adventures. It may slowly push the Soviets back to a more draconian regime to meet the mounting costs. The recent increases in meat and butter prices were an indication of the strain on the economic side, there may be similar tightening upon the political side. Russia could harden instead of "mellowing" and make the problems of diplomacy more difficult of solution. Though this would seem to go contrary to the State Department's expressed hopes and pious wishes, there are many in the military bureaucracy who would welcome this development and would be glad to supplement it with a harder regime here at home.

The Dollar Crisis Is A Warning

Another dangerous aspect of this policy is that if the tempo of the arms race continues to rise, it will soon be a positive burden instead of an economic stimulus to our economy, too. The present difficulties with the balance of payments problem may be only the first warning rumbles. The fact is that the dollar is weakening as against the German mark, the French franc and the British pound. The dollar has been the proud king of world currencies—"good as gold"—for most of a half century, since World War I wrecked Europe. Now it totters on its throne under the impact of the costs imposed by the arms race and our huge and wasteful military establishments abroad, the luxurious legions with which we, like the ancient Romans, seek to guard the marches of our empire and contain the outer barbarians.

Already we beg the Germans for arms orders, the French for pre-payment of debt, to ease the pressure on the dollar. A few years ago they were the recipients of our charity, now they confer favors. This economic change must be reflected in political changes and it is against this backdrop that we —and the Russians—should view the most serious aspect of a continued arms race for both peoples. Mr. Kennedy is rightly concerned about the proliferation of nuclear arms and the development of independent nuclear deterrents. *But nothing can stop this development except an agreement between the two present superpowers for a disarmed world in a new system of law.* Time is running out for both the American and Russian peoples. While they warily watch each other in fear of attack, the catastrophe may come from unexpected sources.

In Japan the other day another warning bell tolled when the 82-year-old pre-war Premier Yoshida, its leading elder statesman, told the Japan-America Society in Tokyo (*Washington Star*, July 12) that Japan may have to develop its own nuclear arms "to defend the Orient from the unfortunate threat of communism." It was under cover of pre-war protestations about the fear of Communism that Japan began its attacks on China, on the British and French empires, and finally on Pearl Harbor. Then too, a second rank power toppled the pillars of world stability, and unleashed the storms that bore their most bitter fruit at Hiroshima. The clocks tick on. Both America and Russia were the victims of surprise attack before. It can happen again—this time with the nuclear arms whose proliferation they failed to stop when they still had time. This is the price fate may exact for their mutual obduracy at Geneva.

Grains of Comfort

Comfort in the news is hard to find these days. We draw it from odd items. We were immensely cheered by the news that three convicts had dug their way out of Alcatraz with a spoon; we regard their feat as a salutary lesson for the young, a true success story.

Another item which gave us hope—we seem to be becoming a reactionary as well as an anarchist—was the news that two monkeys and four hamsters exposed to cosmic rays in a space capsule had been found dead. We cannot imagine better news for the human race at this moment than the discovery that cosmic rays make space travel impossible for man.

The human animal is clearly unfit for outer space. He would bring it within the deadly orbit of his incessant wars and hates; ravage it with his Buck Rogers mentality; pollute it with his bombs. This fiscal year we will spend $5 billions on space. The race to the moon will cost us at least $15 to $20 billions. The Russians are spending comparable sums. Spent on a race to dominate space, they may some day engulf heaven in a nuclear hell. Pooled in peace, they could make a paradise on earth.

No Weekly In August This Year. The Next Issue Will Be The Last Until Labor Day

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I. F. Stone's Weekly. Second Class Postage Paid at Washington, D. C. Published every Monday except the last Monday in August and the first in September and the last Monday in December and the first in January at 5618 Nebraska Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. An independent weekly published and edited by I. F. Stone; Circulation Manager, Esther M. Stone. Subscription: $5 in the U. S.; $6 in Canada; $10 elsewhere. Air Mail rates: $15 to Europe; $20 to Israel, Asia and Africa.

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